



In Touch

Journeying Together:

Collaboration

Co-operation

Co-Responsibility

Fourth Sunday of Lent (year A)

18th / 19th March 2023

No: 1332

Dear Parishioners

I hope that you and your families are well. I send you all my prayers.

Many of you will have heard about a new bill which the government has introduced recently into Parliament, the **Illegal Immigration Bill**. If passed, this bill would have very serious consequences for the many people who honour us by seeking asylum in our country, believing that the UK is a country which defends human rights. In practice this legislation seeks to remove the right to ask for protection for all those who arrive in small boats, which is the only route which is available to so many. Bishop Paul McAleenan, the lead bishop for migration in England and Wales, writes: *“Everyone who makes a dangerous journey across the Channel to build a better life here has a name, a face, and a story. People are driven from their homes by poverty, conflict, persecution, natural disasters, or other factors that prevent their flourishing. Many have links to the UK or family members already living here. Yet, far too often, there are no safe routes open to them. While we all wish to end dangerous Channel crossings, this new legislation treats migrants and refugees as a problem to be solved rather than brothers and sisters towards whom we have responsibilities. Establishing more safe routes and genuinely understanding people’s individual circumstances are essential to meeting these. As Christians we call for the human person, made in the image and likeness of God, to be put at the heart of public policy.”* Please see the information offered below, and please see also the material on our parish website:

<https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/illegal-migrants-bill-march-2023/>

Please pray for all those who feel compelled to undertake the dangerous crossing of the Channel. Please pray for those who have died in the attempt, and for those who rescue and welcome those who succeed in the crossing. Please pray for those who are responsible for determining their future, that they may be guided by humane and wise values.

Meanwhile, we will begin our celebration of **Holy Week** in two weeks’ time. I hope that you will all be able to take part in this, as it forms our celebration of the central mystery of our faith, the death and resurrection of Jesus, which alone can give meaning to our lives. This year we offer some new activities in the hope that these will help us all to engage more deeply with this week. Next Sunday, 26th, Fr David has kindly agreed to give us a talk about the meaning of the celebrations in which we will take part. His talk will begin after mass in the Unity Room. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday we offer an opportunity for *lectio*, or *prayerful reading*, of one of the Biblical texts which we will hear in each of the days’

liturgies. On the morning of Good Friday we offer the opportunity to carry the Cross with Jesus, walking from the Abbey to Worth church and back. Please see below for details.

Our parish engagement with the **Synod** is coming to its end, but there is still chance to respond to the parish questionnaire which you will find on the A5 fliers by the church doors. This is your opportunity to comment on the pastoral work which we do, and how we can make it more effective and helpful. (Please email your response to the office, or drop your written response in the box provided.) Pope Francis ends his meditation on Lent and the Synod, which was quoted the other week, by urging us to go down from the mountain of Transfiguration to engage with our communities: *Let us go down, then, to the plain, and may the grace we have experienced strengthen us to be “artisans of synodality” in the ordinary life of our communities.* I send you all my very best wishes. Fr Paul



Prayers

Please pray for Christopher Innes who died recently. Please pray for his family.
His funeral will be held, here at Worth, on Tuesday 28th March at 11.30am.

Please pray for Severina D'Souza, who has been in hospital for several weeks, and for her husband, Norbert.

Please pray for Michael Grech, who is unwell, and for his wife, Mavis.

Please continue to pray for our parishioners Peter and Antee Greene,
Fred Green, Hugh Hurdman and Laura Rawlinson.

Lenten Prayer

*Plant in us, Lord, seeds of solidarity, so that, rejoicing in your gifts,
we may cherish your presence in each other and all creation.*

Root us, Lord, in compassion and justice.

Pour your Spirit down like gentle rain, softening our hearts, washing away division and selfishness.

Cultivate in us, Lord, attentiveness to your call.

Give us hope to dream of a better world and strength to play our part to make it a reality.

*Grow in us, Lord, your ways of peace and courage, so that in this time of Lent,
we may bear witness to your love, revealed to us in Jesus.*

Amen.

A prayer for Peace and Justice in Ukraine

*God of peace and justice, who change the hardened heart and break the power of violence,
we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.*

Protect them in this time of peril; let them know, not death, but life, not slavery, but freedom

You are Father of all; we are brothers and sisters

Give us the strength to live that truth in love, choosing peace, not war

Amen

Please continue to pray for the success of the Synod

Lord, you have gathered all your People in Synod.

We give you thanks for the joy experienced by those who decided to set out to

*listen to God and to their brothers and sisters during this year,
with an attitude of welcome, humility, hospitality and siblinghood.*

*Help us to enter these pages as on “holy ground.” Come Holy Spirit:
may you be the guide of our journey together.*

Anniversaries

Please pray for the Souls of – Margaret Trueman, Verner Wylie, Jo Fallon, Bernard O’Grady, Patrick Lamb, Geoffrey Weeden, Fr Bruno Grogan, Mrs Whinney, Josephina Holland, Gordon Jones, Edward Allen, Ian Parker and Sally Winn.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.

Daily Readings

Monday – 2 Sam 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 Matt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Luke 2:41-51a
(St Joseph, spouse of The Blessed Virgin Mary)

Tuesday – **The Passing of St Benedict**

Wednesday – Isa 49:8-15 John 5:17-30

Thursday – Exod 32:7-14 John 5:31-47

Friday – Wis 2:1a, 12-22 John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday – Isa 7:10-14, 8:10 Heb 10:4-10 Luke 1:26-38 **(The Annunciation of the Lord)**

Next Sunday’s Readings: **Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year A)**

1st Reading – Ezekiel 37:12-14 2nd Reading – Romans 8:8-11

Gospel: John 11:1-45

I am the Resurrection and the Life

Parish Events

Dates for your Diary

Every Monday throughout Lent – Coffee for CAFOD. Lenten coffee continues from 11am-12.30pm at Cinderhill House, on Cinderhill, near West Hoathly, RH17 7BD.

Every Friday throughout Lent - Stations of the Cross will be celebrated each Friday at 7.15pm. (after vespers).

Tuesday 21st March – Mass with the school at 4.30pm. There will be no 5.30pm mass this day.

Sunday 26th March - Talk by Fr David about Holy Week at 11 am in the Unity Room. **Please note the change of date.**

Monday 3rd April – Parish Reconciliation Service at 7.30pm.

Thursday 6th April - Lectio on the gospel of the day, in Compass House at 7.30pm.

Friday 7th April - 10am – 12 noon - a short circular “cross walk”, around Worth church. 2pm - Lectio on one of the readings of the day, in Compass House.

Saturday 8th April. 8 pm –Lectio on the gospel of the Easter Vigil, in Compass House.

Sunday 2nd July – Parish Picnic, after mass.



Easter Triduum at Worth Abbey

Thursday 6th April 2023, Maundy Thursday

06:15 – 06:50 Matins

07:30 – 08:00 Lauds

13:00 – 13:10 Midday Prayer (*No Vespers*)

20:30 – 21:30 **Community Concelebrated Mass of the Lord's Supper**

followed by **Watching at the Altar of Repose** (in the Unity Room) until midnight.

Friday 7th April 2023, Good Friday

06:15 – 06:50 Matins

07:30 – 08:00 Lauds

13:00 – 13:10 Midday Prayer

15:00 – 16:00 **Good Friday Service of the Lord's Passion**

20:15 – 20:30 Compline (*No Vespers*)

Saturday 8th April 2023, Holy Saturday

06:15 – 06:50 Matins

07:30 – 08:00 Lauds

13:00 – 13:10 Midday Prayer

18:45 – 19:15 Vespers

21:00 – 22:30 **Easter Vigil Mass of the Lord's Resurrection in the Holy Night**

followed by refreshments in the Narthex.

Sunday 9th April 2023, Easter Sunday

08:00 – 08:30 Lauds

10:00 – 11:00 Parish Easter Morning Mass

followed by the Worth Abbey Pilgrims event.

13:00 – 13:10 Midday Prayer

18:00 – 18:30 Pontifical Vespers

House groups

- Compass House at Worth on **Wednesdays at 2pm.**
Please contact the parish office via email – parish@worth.org.uk
- **Thursdays at 7.15pm.** Please contact:
Marian or Christopher Killick - email – marian.imhasly@gmail.com or cdk.hariton69@gmail.com
- A group in Cuckfield. Please contact Christina Fitzsimons via email – cfitzs3287@aol.com
- A group in Crawley Down. Please contact Carol Morice via email – carolmorice251@btinternet.com
- An informal group in Balcombe on **Friday evenings from 7.30pm.**
A chance to chat informally about everyday life and how we approach that as Christians over a glass of wine and cheese and biscuits. Please contact Charlie Tibble on 07845 956243.

Everyone is welcome to join any of the groups.

Easter Eggs

The Fairtrade stall have a selection of Easter Eggs, which include The Real Easter Egg, with a 24-page Easter Story/Activity Book and Divine Easter Eggs. We are ready to take your orders and look forward to seeing you.

Thank you everyone who generously uses the Dona machines to make donations.
May I remind you that the machine in the narthex accepts donations under various headings, including both Parish and Abbey.
Please note that our finances are quite separate.
If you wish to donate to the Parish, please ensure that you tap the correct label on the machine.
Thank you very much.

Abbot Mark wishes to inform the parish about these two important matters:

1. Communion Arrangements

As we approach the third anniversary of the first Covid lockdown, we are understandably asking questions about when and how to resume the reception of Holy Communion from the Chalice. Public health advice is that the covid-19 virus is still circulating in society along with other prevalent seasonal viruses and that the risk of infection still exists. In our neighbouring Catholic parishes and here at Worth it is proposed therefore to continue for the time being with the reception of Holy Communion under one kind, at least until the end of this winter season and its associated viruses. Bishop Richard, along with all the Bishops of England and Wales, asks us each to continue to be mindful of the Church's teaching that the totality of the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of the Lord is received by us in Holy Communion, whether under one or both species. As the summer approaches, we shall continue to monitor the advice we receive and will make further announcements on this important topic.

2. Roof Works

We have recently received notification from Marcon, our roofing contractor, that their anticipated completion date of the end of this present month, March, will not be achieved. We understand that this is partly the result of seasonal bad weather. Naturally, we are sorry to have to announce that the deadline for completion of this major piece of work and the removal of the scaffolding and builders compound has now been extended into the Easter period, and will now not happen before the latter part of April. This will have the consequence that there will be roofing works continuing through the last weeks of Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum.

Some of you will remember our parishioner Hugh Hurdman, who for the last eight years has very faithfully looked after the parish garden, mowing the lawns and cutting the edges.

Hugh is now receiving medical treatment which prevents him from coming to Worth.

Please pray for him while he undergoes his treatment.

Meanwhile, could anyone offer to take his place?

Or can you suggest anyone who loves gardens who might help us?

Easter Sunday at Worth

On Easter Sunday, after the **10am Mass**, Abbot Mark and members of the monastic community invite you to join them and process to the Quiet Garden for the unveiling and blessing of the icon cross.

There will be festive refreshments before and after the procession and activities and chocolate for children.

Junior Church will be open during Mass and children of the parish and visiting children are warmly invited to take part.

From the Laudato Si Movement

Lent is a special time for reflection and action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Each year, God reminds us of his infinite love and compassion for us and all of creation.

This Lent, we invite you to take another step in your journey of ecological conversion.

Through a [Lent Calendar](#), we will invite you to reflect and act on issues related to our social and ecological sins each week. As we reflect on the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us "become painfully aware" (LS 19) of all that must die within us in order to truly commit ourselves to a more just and sustainable world.

We are very grateful to the parents of a pupil in the school for the generous gift of new albs for the servers' team. They bring a new elegance to our liturgy.

Worth Horticultural Society

Spring Show and table-top sale. **Sunday 26th March** at The Ark, Turners Hill, 2-4.30 pm. Free Admission.

Worth Abbey Parish - How can the Parish Community help to deepen our Faith?

It's not too late to respond to this recent Questionnaire, Closing date Sunday 19th March

1. Why did I come out to Worth Abbey Church for Mass this morning? You could have chosen many other options.
2. Why do I continue to choose to come to this Parish rather than any other?
3. What do I like and find helpful for myself and my family?
4. We are trying to offer more support to your Catholic Faith life and those who have a general interest in the Catholic Faith. Are there any areas that you would like addressing e.g. Understanding the Mass, Sacraments, Prayer, the Gospel message and theology/Catholic Social Teaching of the Church?
5. Are there things that would help you to feel more part of the Parish Community?
6. Are there social activities that you would be interested in joining?

You can respond by sending you answers to the Parish Office parish@worth.org.uk or by submitting your answers in the boxes provided in the Narthex and by the East Door at Worth Abbey **by 19th March**.

'The Heart of the King'

Joel's Bar 2023 at Worth Abbey, Crawley, **9th -14th April**, full board and accommodation: £250, bursaries and day rates available. Joel's Bar is the Young Adults ministry of CELEBRATE Trust, serving those aged 16-28. Experience fantastic formation, with talks from world-renowned speakers, workshops, activities and loads of time for prayer. Find out more and book [here](#).

The diocese warns us about a new bill passing through Parliament which would prevent people from claiming asylum in Britain.

The [St Vincent de Paul Society](#) (SVP) has warned against government plans to introduce legislation which would detain and remove people arriving in the UK to claim asylum.

The [Illegal Migration Bill](#), which was introduced to Parliament on 7 March, will prevent most people in need of sanctuary from claiming asylum in the UK. It also fails to provide safe routes for people seeking protection in the UK. The Bill, if passed in its current form, will allow the Government to make arrangements for the removal of vulnerable people entering the UK to claim protection from war and persecution. It will also make a provision to hold asylum seekers in immigration removal centres, including women and people who have experienced torture and sexual violence.

Following the introduction of the Bill, the SVP is urging the Government to create an asylum system which protects those seeking sanctuary and doesn't punish people for seeking a better life. You can find out more [here](#)

Please also see the excellent material on our parish website:

<https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/illegal-migrants-bill-march-2023/>

Non-Parish Events

Crawley Interfaith Network (CIFN)

You are cordially invited to join the gathering to hear a presentation on "Spotlight on Sikhism" on **Wednesday 22nd March** at 7.30pm at Crawley Sikh Gurdwara, Ifield Green, Crawley, RH11 0NU

The event will be in person followed by questions, answers, discussion and light refreshment.

For info, please contact Ashwin Soni 07833 252551, ashel@hotmail.co.uk

Arundel Cathedral 150th Anniversary Concert Series

Robert Sholl (organ),

1st April at 1pm. Robert plays Tournemire's Seven Last Words of the Cross along with other music suitable for Holy Week. Jean-Yves Daniel-Lesur: Scène de la Passion, Tournemire: Sept Chorals-poèmes d'orgue pour les sept paroles du Christ Op. 67. **Free entry with a retiring collection.**

The Passion of Jesus

Trafalgar Square in London, **7th April at 12 noon and 3.15 pm.**

Wintershall brings the [Passion of Jesus](#) to London again this year with two free performances. People across our community are invited to attend - or even join the cast with rehearsals in Guildford and London. [Find out more here.](#)

Exhibition of Icons

Icons, drawings, frescos and illuminations by the local traditional byzantine iconographer Hanna-Leena Ward at St Lawrence's Church, Caterham, Surrey.

Open from **24th April – 7th May** 12noon – 7pm daily.

The opening night on 23rd April starts with Evensong at 6pm in St Mary's church, followed by a viewing of the icons at St Lawrence's church next door from 6.45pm – 9pm.

There are daily icon painting classes from 10am-2pm at St Lawrence's church during the exhibition. £35 daily. All levels welcome. For more information contact hannalward@hotmail.com

Links for Our Common Home

[Help Reduce Food Waste](#) [Greenpeace 101 ideas to live more sustainably](#)

[Help Reduce Plastic Waste](#) [Laudato Si' Movement](#)

[WSCC Environment and Climate Change Newsletter](#)

[Nature on your doorstep](#) <https://www.sussexgreenliving.co.uk/>

<https://www.recyclenow.com/repeatthecycle> [Greenpeace Big Plastic Count](#)

[West Sussex Climate Action](#) [The Joyful Environmentalist](#) [Greener Living](#)

[CAFOD climate crisis campaign](#)

For other regular items, please see the website:

For readings, see Universalis: [Universalis](#) Parish Leadership Team: [Parish Leadership Team](#)

Our Facebook page: [Parish Facebook](#) Children's Junior Church liturgy: [Junior Church](#)

Diocesan Family Materials: [Family Materials](#) Parish Giving: [My Dona Parish Giving](#)

For D'Arcy's music, please visit our homepage under Organ volunteers:

<https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/>

Please use the QR code for donations to the Parish. Thank you



REGULAR EVENTS IN THE PARISH

Mass Times - Saturday: 9.00 am (Concelebrated) and 5.00 pm (First Mass of Sunday),
Sunday: 9.30 am
Daily Mass: 5.30 pm (Concelebrated), Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil Mass: 7.30 pm;
Feast Day: 5.30 pm



Confessions (Sacrament of Reconciliation) – In the Church, Sundays 08.45am – 09.15am
(If anyone cannot come at this time, please make a special appointment with Fr Paul)

Rosary Group – Mondays in the Abbey Church after Vespers – 7:10pm until 8:00pm. Please get in touch with Rachel Davies: 07801 696354

Lectio Divina – Tuesday evenings at 8pm via Zoom. Please contact Jenny Chapman
jenny_chapman@sky.com

Christian Meditation Group – 7.00pm in the Unity Room, please contact Richard by email
rbrownd1@gmail.com Next Dates, 29th March and 26th April.

Vigil for Vocations - (1st Friday). After Compline 8.30pm - 9.00pm.

Bible Study Group – 11.15am on Mondays in Compass House. Please contact Jenny Chapman.

Parish Priest: Fr Paul Fleetwood (Mobile: 07764 260216)

Parish Office Email: parish@worth.org.uk Parish Office Tel: 01342 710313 Parish Website: www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk
Secretary: Maria Stribbling, available 9.15am-1.15pm Mon-Fri

Night time emergencies only: 01342 710331

Any cheques to be made payable to – Worth Abbey Parish

Safeguarding: Charles and Ann McCarthy Email – sg1.worth@abdiocese.org.uk

In Touch: If you would like anything to appear in 'In Touch', please contact Maria Stribbling at parish@worth.org.uk
(by Wednesday 10am)

Safe Spaces: 0300 303 1056 Web: www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk/ Email: safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk

If you are unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, or if you have any prayer intentions, please let Fr Paul know.